

Lou Mansolillo

From: barry schiller <bschillert358@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 3:20 PM
To: House Corporations Committee
Cc: Patricia Raub
Subject: RITransit Riders opposes H6373 as written, suggests amendment

Dear Honorable members of the House Corporations Committee

I am writing on behalf of RI Transit Riders to oppose bill H6373 as written, but we do recommend an amendment to the bill.

The bill seeks to add the Providence Mayor to the RIPTA Board of Directors.

We note the city of Providence, as is the case with other municipalities, does not contribute to RIPTA financing (though it does buy passes for some of its public school students.) Therefore, we believe it is inappropriate to add the Mayor of Providence—or of any other individual city or town—to the RIPTA Board. Furthermore, RI Transit Riders has observed that the current mayor of Providence has shown little interest in or support for bus transit.

However, a local government perspective on transit could be beneficial in making transit policy decisions. Therefore, we ask the sponsor or the Committee to consider amending the bill to direct the League of Cities and Towns to designate a municipal official for a three-year term to the RIPTA Board of Directors. That way, there would be more assurance that the designee would actually be knowledgeable about public transit and committed to strengthening it throughout all of Rhode Island.

Thank you for considering our views on this matter.

Barry Schiller, for RI Transit Riders

bschillert358@gmail.com

cc Patricia Raub, Co-coordinator, RI Transit Riders